

## Are All Baptisms The Same?

Have you ever wondered about this question. I have come in contact both through friends and family on this controversial subject. I have come in contact with people who have been baptized in different ways and in different names. Churches offer different means of salvation according to their own creeds or doctrinal teachings. It is believed to some that baptism is a sprinkling, a pouring, an immersion, or some prayer even. Then people believe that baptism can be in any name. It can in the name of the preacher, church, God, etc.

Is this a universal subject where all are the same or all are acceptable? Let's examine some scriptures this now to answer this questions?

First of all Jesus gave a command (**Mark 16:16**), *He who BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED. He who does not believe will be condemned.* Then again let's examine **Matthew 28:18-20**: *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.* It is clearly pointed out by our Lord and Savior that baptism must happen in order to have salvation. The idea or teaching of a faith only or prayers of faith to save are thrown out the door. Peter also teaches us about baptism (**1 Peter 3:21**): *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,* we have even more scriptural evidence of baptism required of us. Then we can look at the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:37-42**. Peter taught the people that day that they needed to be baptized for the remission of their sins. The people listen and that day 3000 souls were added to the church. Baptism is essential it is not matter of opinion or choice. We have evidence through the scriptures that it is necessary for salvation.

What about the name of who we are baptized in? Does this matter? We have so many denominations that are teaching this today. In **Ephesians 4:4-6** we read about the unity that we have in God and in His ways. In the course of these verses we read how there is **One Baptism**. The name of this matters. There is to be no division (**1 Corinthians 1:10-15**). Who are we baptized in the name of? Paul addresses this question. Are we baptized in the Paul, Peter, Apollos? How about today? Are we baptized in the name of the preacher, elders, or even the church? Let's again go to **Matthew 28:18-20**: *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.* Baptism is to be done in certain manner and the name matters. We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hence we bear the name of Christian (**Acts 19:5**).

Also let's examine the physical act of baptism. Is it pouring? Is it sprinkling? Or is it an immersion? The Ethiopian Eunuch shows by example what the action is in **Acts 8:38-39**: So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. Then let's also examine **Romans 6:1-4**: *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into*

*death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Clearly as we look at this topic there is a distinction in talking about baptism. It does matter. It is not a topic that all baptisms are the same. It does matter the name we are baptized in. The physical act does matter! Let's go to the Bible as our guide and if we need to make changes in our life let's act upon it before it is too late. **Daniel Sanders**